

voted under this head had been expended by this Government on matters which ought to have been estimated for, instead of in matters which could not have been foreseen. The taking of this vote might be quite right in a large Government, but in this municipal Government of Ontario there was no occasion for such a large vote.

Mr. LAUDER said \$20,000 was the largest sum asked for by the last Government.

Mr. HODGINS said the Sandfield Macdonald Government had every year largely exceeded their appropriation. In 1869 they exceeded it by \$29,000, in 1870 by \$32,000, and in 1871 by \$2,990. The form gone through when Mr. Mackenzie was Treasurer was to take a vote on every item under this head during the next session. This had not been done this year. However, he thought the amount asked was not too large.

Mr. CROOKS said Mr. Wood had expressed a strong opinion that it was better to have this general extra vote than to raise the amounts in the estimates too high. Occasions always arose on which the amounts voted must be overrun, but the House passed the items afterwards, and so it was as broad as it was long.

Mr. SCOTT quoted from the practice of the English House of Commons to show that large votes should not be placed under the control of the Government for unforeseen expenses. He urged that the amount should be placed in the estimates and fully explained.

Mr. SINCLAIR reminded the House that Mr. Sandfield Macdonald had urged the establishment of such a fund in order to prevent large expenditures, it being well known that when estimates were taken the money was generally expended.

A division was then taken on the amendment; Yeas, 29; Nays, 45.

YEAS—Messrs. Baker, Barr, Bell, Boulter, Broder, Brown, Counts, Creighton, Deacon, Elshar, Harkin, Keap, Lauder, Macdougall (Middlesex), Macdougall (Simcoe), McRae, Meredith, Merrick, Monk, Motyn, O'Sullivan, Patterson (West), Preston, Richardson, Rosevear, Scott, Tooley, Wigle, Wills—29.

NAYS.—Appleby, Ballantyne, Baxter, Bethune, Bishop, Bondfield, Clarke (Norfolk), Clarke (Wellington), Cole, Crooks, Dawson, Deroche, Ferris, Finlayson, Fleming, Fraser, Gibson, Gow, Graham (Lambton), Grant, Hauey, Hargraff, Hay, Hodgins, Lane, Lyon, McCrae, McGowan, McLeod, McMahon, Mowat, Pardee, Patterson (York), Paxton, Robinson, Ross, Sexton, Sinclair, Springer, Striker, Watlerworth, Widdifield, Wills, Wilson, Wood—45.

The amendment was, therefore, negatived.

After passing some further items, the Committee rose and reported.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

The House went into Committee on the Bill respecting certain proceedings in Municipal Elections.

The Bill passed through Committee with some trifling amendments, and the addition of a clause to prevent the voiding of the election if the provisions of the Act were substantially complied with.

DISALLOWED BILLS.

Mr. MOWAT moved the second reading of the Bill to amend and repeal certain enactments of the last session of the Legislature of this Province.

The motion was carried, and the Bill passed through Committee with certain unimportant amendments.

Mr. MOWAT moved the adjournment of the House.

The House adjourned at 1:35 a.m.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr. Graham (Lambton)—Enquiry of Ministry whether it is the intention of the Government to ask the Dominion Legislature to allow all documents relative to the registration of births, deaths, and marriages to pass through the Post-office free of charge.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

December 21.

The Public Accounts Committee met this morning at 11 o'clock. There were present Messrs. Gow (Chairman), Crooks, Wood, Gibson, Meredith, Clarke (Wellington), Hay, Lauder, Ferris, Striker, Merrick, Ross, Boulter, Macdougall (Simcoe).

A letter was produced from R. Hay & Co. in reference to their accounts of \$783.69 for furniture.

Mr. LAUDER moved, seconded by Mr. Boulter, "That the account of R. Hay & Co., \$783.69, be recorded in detail in the minutes

of Committee."

Mr. CROOKS moved, in amendment, "That the words 'of the Committee' in the original motion be struck out and the following substituted:—'that the letter sent to the Committee at its request be also recorded; and that Mr. Hay and his foreman be requested to attend and give explanations.'"

The motion as amended was carried.

On the item "Thomas Short, expenses of transferring prisoners to Central Prison, \$2,306.94,"

Mr. LANGMUIR repeated the explanations given last year as to the system pursued in removing prisoners from the various gaols to the Central Prison.

The detailed account was asked for.

Mr. LAUDER moved, "That sub-committees of this Committee be appointed to investigate all accounts and payments connected with the Central Prison and with colonization roads for 1874 and 1875."

Mr. CROOKS said there could be no objection to a sub-committee, so long as they were confined to their proper functions, and did not interfere with the general work of the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. CLARKE (Wellington) would oppose the formation of a sub-committee until it was shown that the General Committee was unable to perform the functions delegated to it by the House.

Mr. FERRIS took the same view.

Mr. MACDOUGALL held that unless the labours of the Committee were divided in the way suggested, they would not be able to get through. He did not mean to say that there was any wrong doing in regard to colonization roads, but he did not approve of the present system, and thought its working should be investigated.

Mr. MEREDITH said that a small Committee appointed to investigate colonization roads might be able to make some important suggestions.

Mr. CROOKS said that as he understood the functions of a sub-committee, they could only report facts to the General Committee.

Mr. MACDOUGALL hoped that the hands of a sub-Committee would not be so tied down that their investigations would be valueless.

Mr. DEACON said he did not approve of the present system of disbursing moneys on colonization roads. He thought it should be investigated, and, as the session was drawing to a close, the duty of doing so should be referred to a sub-committee, as was done at Ottawa.

Mr. WOOD said that the more important the question was, the greater reason was there that the whole Public Accounts Committee should investigate it, instead of putting the duties into the hands of two or three members. The better plan would be for the whole Committee to take up the Central Prison and Colonization Roads accounts as they appeared to be regarded as important, and allow the sub-committees to investigate matters of less importance.

Mr. CROOKS said that if the sub-committee would confine itself to investigations and reporting facts he believed its operations would greatly facilitate the labours of this Committee; but he for one would not be willing to delegate to a sub-committee the functions which belonged to the whole Committee, such as offering recommendations on matters of policy, &c.

Mr. CLARKE (Wellington) moved in amendment "That the words after 'that' be struck out, and the following substituted:—'As matters connected with the Central Prison and colonization roads involve not only matters of account, but questions upon which the Committee may be required to offer recommendations as to future policy, it is therefore inexpedient that such questions should be delegated to a sub-committee.'"

The amendment was lost.

YEAS—Wood, Ferris, Gibson, Clarke, Striker, Hay—6.

NAYS—Crooks, Merrick, Deacon, Boulter, Meredith, Macdougall, Lauder, Ross—8.

Mr. ROSS moved that the words, "and report the evidence as to facts to this Committee," be added to the motion.

After some discussion, Mr. Ross's amendment was carried.

Mr. CLARKE moved, in amendment to the amended motion, "That all the words after 'that' in the original motion be struck out, and the following substituted:—'It is not necessary or advisable to appoint sub-committees for the consideration of Public Accounts until it has been shown that there is not sufficient time for a full investigation of